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## Kenyon Collegian - April 8, 2021

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## CAs organize following sweeping changes to the program

**SOPHIE KRICHEVSKY**  
FEATURES EDITOR

This week, Community Advisors (CAs) and members of the Kenyon Student Workers Organizing Committee (K-SWOC) held a virtual town hall and an informational picket in protest of the College's recent alterations to the CA position.

One of the most significant of these changes, announced via a news bulletin on March 22, is the replacement of apartment CAs with two graduate students — dubbed graduate assistants (GAs) — from Kent State University (KSU) who will live on campus. As a result of these new hires, CAs will no longer oversee apartment-style residences, and instead will move to the first-year areas. This change will shrink the resident to CA ratio for first-year students from 35-45 to 1 to 20 to 1.

According to Vice President for Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham '92, the decision to increase CA presence in the First-Year Quad was prompted by the College's recent housing study. The study, which was done by Brailsford & Dunlavey, found that first-year students in particular valued their relationships with their CAs, thus prompting the increase.

"We also are really mindful of the needs of our first-year students," Bonham explained. "I think that we want CAs who very much are ... committed to performing their responsibilities, regardless of where they have an opportunity to reside themselves on campus."

Additionally, returning CAs will now have to reapply for their positions through a 30-minute meeting, during which, among other things, they must give a five- to 10-minute presentation and outline their involvement in various campus jobs and student organizations. In previous years, CAs merely signed a form indicating their intent to return to the position.

These are not the first roadblocks CAs have faced this year. Following Kenyon's decision to invite all CAs back to campus in the fall, CAs successfully negotiated for increased wages and lowered room costs in August. Although at the time, K-SWOC had not gone public, this moment was, in essence, K-SWOC's debut, as many of those who participated in negotiations were and still are card-carrying members of the union.

During Monday's town hall, several CAs expressed concerns that the changes to their jobs might be retaliation for

their involvement in K-SWOC, and, more specifically, for K-SWOC's strike on March 16. The work stoppage authorization — the first undergraduate student strike in United States history — included employees from Library and Information Services, the Kenyon Farm, the Wright Center and the greenhouse, as well as lifeguards.

"It does seem like retaliation for perhaps involvement in a group like K-SWOC," explained Alasia Destine-DeFreece '21, a member of the K-SWOC steering committee who has been a CA since her sophomore year. She was specifically worried about the addition of a reapplication process, and what a review of activities might mean for students who work multiple jobs, herself included. "If you do have to work multiple jobs — and a lot of CAs do have to do this — being told that you can't [be a CA], the job that secures you the highest amount of income, because you're working another job, seems really counterproductive for students who need to work to be on campus."

Students, alumni and faculty alike have expressed reservations about the introduction of GAs from KSU. In a series of emails sent to Bonham and the whole community, J. Kenneth Smail Professor of Anthropol-

ogy Ed Schortman voiced his disapproval of the decision. In his March 26 email, he noted that, while graduate students have the potential to bond with the campus community, it will be impossible to replicate the bond that CAs and their residents share as Kenyon students. "We do not need to import more friends as we are well served by those who are already here," Schortman wrote.

On the topic of GAs, Bonham has said on several occasions, including in a Student-Info email this week, that although the GAs will reside in on-campus apartments, this shift will add 48-60 additional apartment spaces to future housing lotteries. Many CAs were frustrated with how the framing of Bonham's email depicts student workers, especially as it relates to their housing assignments, as CAs will now all be forced to live in dorms.

"It's basically saying that CAs are second-class students," CA John Ortiz '22 told the *Collegian* at Tuesday's picket.

"CAs who are placed in apartments are students who deserve good housing, and so are their apartment mates," CA Katherine Crawford '22 added. "Just because we don't

go through the housing lottery doesn't mean we don't deserve good housing."

In a Student-Info email earlier this week, Bonham claimed that the CAs had been consulted on these job changes. Crawford and Ortiz refuted this, saying that although a handful of CAs were consulted about new housing on campus, there was no mention of the changes to their jobs. In fact, Ortiz says that he even asked his supervisor if he could be involved in the discussion after hearing rumors of the changes, two weeks prior to the announcement. "He told me that it was not his decision," Ortiz said.

Throughout this ordeal, the Kenyon community has been supportive of the CAs. Approximately 30 students participated in Tuesday's picket, where they held signs and banners and handed out flyers to students entering Peirce Dining Hall. At one point, as many as 150 people — students, professors and alumni included — were in attendance at Monday's town hall. According to steering committee member Nathan Geesing '21, though, the Board of Trustees declined to attend.

"They were very cordial about their declining," he said. "As always, our door's open for future town halls if they'd like to change their mind."

## College pushes back Commencement date, allows visitors

**AMELIA CARNELL**  
STAFF WRITER

On April 1, President Sean Decatur announced in a news bulletin that the Commencement ceremony for the class of 2021 will occur in person, with limited guests, on May 21. Graduating seniors, including those currently studying remotely, are invited to bring up to two guests to campus.

Director of Health and Counseling Chris Smith said that a more normal graduation became a possibility as the College continued to review COVID-19 data, including vaccination rates in the Kenyon community. "Perfection is not a reality. But we're going to do the best we can," Smith said.

Every Ohioan over the age of 16 is now eligible to receive a vaccine, and President Joe Biden announced Tuesday that every state must make the vaccine universally accessible by April 19.



ALEX GILKEY

Originally, Commencement for the class of 2021 was planned for May 22. In February, the College announced plans had been changed to a celebration on May 8 for seniors who were currently on campus, and a virtual Commencement ceremony on June 12.

Students had expressed concerns about holding graduation events before the end of final examinations on May 17, as many seniors would need to study and not be able to fully enjoy the celebration. At the time, Decatur told the *Collegian* that the early senior celebra-

tion was to prevent overlap with move-out, when many visitors would already be on campus helping students move.

Smith acknowledged concerns about the date of graduation, and said another reason the College decided to push back the date was the constantly changing state of the pandemic. The later date will allow more time to prepare for the event. Smith said the College would provide guidance to guests on quarantining and other safety measures closer to the event.

Earlier this year, the College cancelled plans to host a celebration for the class of 2020. Assistant Director of Academic and Ceremonial Events Bethanne Fowler said that the administration is reconsidering this decision in light of the current change to Commencement plans. "Within the next week or so, we will be sending a survey to the class [of 2020] to determine their preferences on potential dates for that event," Fowler wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

# College will host vaccine clinic amid recent rise in cases

ADAM MARGOLIS  
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Friday, April 2, the College extended the ongoing quiet period following a sharp increase in student COVID-19 cases. There were 10 new positive student results last week, bringing the total number of student cases for the semester to 56. As of Wednesday, there are seven active student cases and 39 students in quarantine. There are two active employee cases, bringing the semester total to 30.

The College announced on Tuesday that it will host a vaccine clinic in conjunction with Knox Public Health on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Lowry Center, which will offer Kenyon students the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The College has 1,050 doses available for student use, which Director of Health and Counseling Chris Smith believes will be “sufficient” to meet the

need at Kenyon.

Furthermore, students who do not receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine through the College can do so through other vaccine distribution centers like Knox Community Hospital, since eligibility in Ohio has opened up to all people 16 and older. Many Kenyon students have already received their first doses of the vaccine.

“We’re hoping that this is a really great opportunity to get the vaccination coverage for our entire campus community,” Smith said, adding that he hopes the widespread vaccinations will put the campus in a “good space” as the semester winds down.

Even with the promise of mass vaccinations around the country, Smith emphasized the fact that the country is still “in an active pandemic” and students need to remain vigilant given the increase in cases on campus. While cases in Knox County remain high, Knox

Pages reported that one in four Knox county residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Kenyon’s latest wastewater report, released Tuesday, reflected this rise in cases, finding that levels of COVID-19 are still high in the Village and Kenyon. However, Decatur noted that the wastewater testing is not as up to date as it should be.

“The biggest concern that I have on [the wastewater] front is a timing issue. And I know that Professor [of Biology Joan] Slonczewski has been in touch with the folks that do the analysis to see what we can do on that front,” said Decatur. “But the lag in timing has actually meant that we’ve had individual test results back before wastewater results, and ideally, that should be the other way around.”

In mid-March, there were 10 new student cases, prompting a quiet period which was set to end

on April 2. However, Director of Cox Health and Counseling Chris Smith said that an additional 10 cases detected between March 26 and April 2 raised the campus positivity rate to above 1%, leading to an extension of the quiet period. It is possible that the College missed some cases in the first few weeks of March, as only a quarter of the student body was tested each week for several weeks.

Smith said those additional 10 cases detected last week show that there is wider community spread at Kenyon outside of small groups of close contacts.

“There is also a new observance that we’re experiencing,” said Smith. “Some of those close contacts are also developing symptoms, and some of them are actually becoming positives themselves. That’s something we didn’t really see in the fall semester.”

Symptomatic close contacts led to a change in the way that the

College is testing those in quarantine. Instead of testing quarantined students on the 10th day of their quarantine, close contacts are tested at the beginning of their quarantine and then incrementally throughout.

Furthermore, general student testing (which is now taking place weekly for the entire student body during quiet period) will now take place within a three-day window instead of over four days. This allows for student results to arrive by the end of the week, which Smith said will help determine if it is necessary to further extend the quiet period.

Smith hopes that the extension along with more frequent testing and vaccinations will help reduce the campus positivity rate and the amount of transmission. Smith is hopeful that the quiet period will be able to be lifted on April 9, should the campus positivity rate decrease to under 1%.

## Decatur announces update to student work-study program

HUIJUN MAO  
STAFF WRITER

On March 26, President Sean Decatur announced in a news bulletin that, starting in fall 2021, the expectation of work-study in need-based financial aid will be reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,000. To account for this change in the work-study expectation, students will receive an extra \$500 direct grant and a \$500 credit for the Kenyon Bookstore — \$250 at the start of each semester.

This change in allotted work-study funds is one of the ways the College hopes to improve the work-study program. According to Decatur, other changes, such as providing orientation for students to familiarize them with on-campus opportunities and encouraging supervisors to reserve at least 50% of interview opportunities for work-study students, are also on the way.

This policy is in accordance with Ke-

nyon’s long-held pledge to meet 100% of students’ demonstrated financial need, according to Decatur. The new measure reduces the number of hours student employees are expected to work to receive work-study funds. According to Decatur, an update on the pay tiers will come later this semester, after the Campus Senate investigation prompted reform to the system.

These changes to the work-study program come less than a month after members of the Kenyon Student Workers Organizing Committee (K-SWOC) went on strike in protest of unfair labor practices, and within the week of the announcement of sweeping changes to the CA job position.

The decision is based on the recommendations from a Campus Senate report on student employment conducted last fall. Under Decatur’s request, the Senate devoted several months to a comprehensive examination of the College’s student employment program, in which students raised issues about on-campus job availability and the challenge of securing sufficient work hours, especially for first-year

students, among other concerns.

Notably, Decatur commissioned the August employment review after the College became aware student workers were seeking to unionize through a card-check neutrality agreement earlier in the summer.

K-SWOC was not satisfied with the recommendations from the Senate report, arguing that every work-study student should be guaranteed a job and minimum working hours. “Kenyon should look to work-study programs at peer institutions to make this ideal a reality,” states their list of demands to the administration, referring to institutions with work-study programs like Vassar College.

K-SWOC declined to make a formal statement on the latest work-study update, noting that “financial aid is not a permissive subject matter that could be negotiated at the bargaining table.” They added that “it remains true that increases to wages would benefit all student workers and allow individuals on work-study to work fewer hours to meet the allotment.”

According to Director of Financial Aid Craig Slaughter, the pandemic increased pressure on student work by reducing the number of job positions opened since a number of in-person offices are closed. On the other hand, Slaughter suggested that “economic pressure at home” and limited summer opportunities for students seeking employment have exacerbated demand for jobs.

The Career Development Office (CDO) is currently working on a series of plans to provide guidance and video tutorials to students about searching for jobs and preparing their resumes. The CDO will also design additional guidelines for supervisors for “setting and communicating expectations” and “being accessible and instructive mentors” to enhance the general working experience. However, it has stopped short of guaranteeing jobs to all students on work-study.

At the end of the email, Decatur encouraged students who are facing financial hardship to request emergency relief funds via an online form.

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# In-person admissions tours continue during quiet period

**SPENCER HIRSCH**  
STAFF WRITER

On March 26, the College started its spring admissions tours, which will run until May 1 — the end of “yield season,” or the time period in which high school seniors receive their collegiate decisions and notify schools of their choice.

The Office of Admissions is conducting visits Monday through Saturday, and each day a total of 10 admitted students, with a maximum of two family members each, receive an hourlong guided campus walk and a 50-minute virtual information session. The daily groups are staggered, meaning five students are on tour while the other five are in session, and there is only one family per tour guide. Kenyon is only permitting staff members to be tour guides.

All admitted students and their families must abide by the College’s COVID-19 guidelines, including mask-wearing during their visits, and the only College buildings they are permitted to enter are Ransom Hall and the Kenyon Inn. However, Village shops and restaurants are still open to the public.

Compared to the visitation policies of the other Ohio Five schools — Denison University, Oberlin College, Ohio Wesleyan University and the College of Wooster — Kenyon has taken a more conservative approach. The other schools allow student admissions workers to be in-person guides for admitted students and their families. In addition, excluding Oberlin, the three other institutions conduct larger tours as well as in-person interviews, open houses and information sessions. Conversely, all informational programming from Kenyon is currently virtual, with over 25 classes, nine interest-specific sessions, two Presidential Town Halls and



Prospective families are only allowed to enter Ransom Hall and the Kenyon Inn on their visits. | SARA HALEBLIAN

events available for admitted international students, Kenyon Educational Enrichment Program and STEM Scholars and transfer students.

However, members of the campus community have expressed concerns at admissions tours continuing during an uptick in community COVID-19 cases and the reinstatement of quiet period guidelines. Vice President for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions Diane C. Anci said that her office has received a handful of complaints about official visitors thus far, but not an overwhelming amount.

“We’ve been vigilant with our guests,” she said. “There is a person who speaks to them

on the telephone at the point of their registration and emphasizes the point that they must follow all of the rules. They know about our Kenyon Commitment [and] they know about all of the protocols.” Once families arrive, they are again reminded of the rules and are asked to leave campus once their visit is complete.

Despite admissions tours looking very different this academic year, Kenyon has so far received 7,576 applications, a 14.8% increase over last year and a record-breaking figure, according to Anci.

The Office of Admissions has never had a spring like this one, and they have done a good deal of work to keep up during

the pandemic. “We’re stretched very thin as a staff this month because we have more than 30 virtual events taking place,” said Anci. “We have kept our community largely safe from this pandemic and it is our aim to continue to do that through the end of this year.”

Because of the reinstatement of the quiet period, the Office of Admissions is not currently scheduling new visits. Only pre-registered visits will proceed, and cancelled visits will not be filled from the waiting list. However, in recent weeks, students reported a number of unauthorized visitors to Campus Safety, including a wedding party. Other students have noticed visitors without masks

walking around campus.

President Sean Decatur believes some of the people disregarding the rules may be here for admissions visits, but many of them may also have come to Gambier for personal reasons. “I think that it’s one of the consequences of the campus being an open space that people will come on to the open space. I’ve heard more examples of concerns around [unauthorized visitors] than I have about the official admissions tours,” he said.

Decatur also notes that, as tours continue, if anybody notices something that makes them uncomfortable, “letting Campus Safety know is the right thing [to do].”

## Village Council convenes to approve pavement resurfacing

**GRANT HOLT**  
STAFF WRITER

The Gambier Village Council convened on April 5 for its monthly meeting, in which the Council approved a \$185,725 contract with Small’s Asphalt Paving Company to resurface the town’s streets. The Gambier-based paving company was the only bidder to deliver a proposal for the resurfacing of Meadow Lane, Brooklyn Street, parts of Kokosing Drive and the parking lot at the village park.

The Council also approved a resolu-

tion to take part in the Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) sale of road salt for next winter. In accordance with the resolution, the Village will purchase the road salt at the same unit price as the ODOT.

Later in the meeting, Kenyon Vice President for Facilities, Planning and Sustainability Ian Smith reported on the College’s recent pandemic guidelines and activity, announcing the extension of the quiet period and weekly testing for the entire student body. Smith also mentioned that the College will host an on-campus vaccine clinic for students on April 8 at the Lowry Center, follow-

ing Gov. Mike DeWine’s approval for vaccine distribution at colleges and universities. Smith also elaborated on the College’s plans for an in-person graduation, clarifying that it would be a limited, socially distanced ceremony on May 21.

The Council also scheduled “Stick It to the Village Days” — an annual event where Village residents can leave small branches and brush out on the curb for collection — for April 12 and April 27. In addition, “Dumpster Day” was scheduled for May 1, during which Village residents will be able to dispose of bulky items too large for weekly trash collection.

Monday’s meeting was the last for

Village Council Fiscal Officer Kathi Schonauer, who plans to retire on April 30 after serving in her position for 25 years.

“The way you have literally enriched this community cannot be understated, so thank you,” Mayor Leeman Kessler said to Schonauer.

The Council appointed Diane Steinmetz to replace Schonauer as fiscal officer, and she started her position last Monday.

The Village Council will meet again on May 3. Those interested in attending can find a Zoom meeting link on the Village website.



# Kenyon Twitter community fills void amid pandemic

**SAM BRODSKY**  
STAFF WRITER

In the summer of 2020, Dante Kanter '21 spent an entire day obsessing over a tweet he had published. He was in his hometown of Woodstock, N.Y., and — like most Kenyon students at the time — living with his parents. In the lonely doldrums of quarantine, Kanter sought solace on Twitter.

Kanter's popular tweet evoked the familiar and then-distant experience well known to all students, alumni and professors who have stepped foot on Middle Path: "I miss Kenyon. Want to spend my day waving to 70 acquaintances who look like Kramer."

The post received around 100 likes, a number much higher than average for Kanter (according to his own metric). Most of the likes came from other Kenyon students, many of whom Kanter had never met in person. "I think the reason why it was partially popular is because it latched onto a specific thing about Kenyon's campus," he said. "I think it made people feel nostalgic. I was trying to kind of emphasize or play up on that nostalgia."

Since the pandemic began, a surge of students have flocked to Twitter to share Kenyon-related memories, jokes, asides, news and sometimes frustrations and dissatisfactions. In light of remote classes, the platform has become an alternate form of virtual communication in the absence of a "Kramer" wave on Middle Path. At a time when nobody was on campus, and when

many other students also missed Kenyon — even its more absurd and *Seinfeld*-esque idiosyncrasies — Kanter's tweet gave voice to an unspoken yet universal experience. "I had never gotten that much attention on the internet before," he said. "I sat all day looking at the different people who liked it and reading the same words over and over again."

Rebecca Turner '22, an avid user since 2013, feels as though the large and new presence of Kenyon students on Twitter could not have existed without COVID-19. "It's no coincidence that Kenyon Twitter arose out of the pandemic," Turner said. "We're all completely addicted to the internet now, and Twitter is just another manifestation of that."

Students follow each other — making them "mutuals" — and can then see what tweets each other likes on their timelines. Often, the platform's algorithm causes a student's feed to display tweets from other Kenyon stu-

dents due to the high number of mutuals. The result is a relatively small but tight-knit online community, colloquially known as "Kenyon Twitter" — a term that Turner feels is so ingrained in the Kenyon community it has consequences on her day-to-day psychology.

"There is such a thing as Kenyon Twitter," she confirmed. "There are people who I've never met before, but who go to Kenyon, who take up big mental real estate in my mind because I've read their thoughts on Twitter."

Emma Spivack '21, another active member of the community, feels as though Kenyon Twitter has been a healthy space for her to find solidarity with other students through the harsh times of the pandemic. "During the fall, I feel like I really connected with students [on Twitter] who I never would have talked to before," she said. Spivack has used the app to commiserate with other seniors in the wake of a remote fall se-

mester, virtual end-of-college celebrations — like Fandango — and the administration's neglect of student workers. "It's kind of like therapy," she said.

When mentioning Kenyon on Twitter, students often censor one of the letters in the name with an asterisk ("K\*nyon," or "Keny\*n") to shield their criticism from the eyes of administrators or staff at the College who might stumble upon their profiles when searching for "kenyon" content. Che Pieper '21, identified by many in this article as a Kenyon Twitter star, has recently stopped censoring his tweets. "As criticism of Kenyon has gotten more public with K-SWOC [Kenyon Student Workers Organizing Committee], I don't feel like I need to censor the word 'Kenyon,'" he explained.

For some at Kenyon, Twitter has been a useful tool for getting the word out about strikes and demonstrations. Kanter, who plays an active role in K-SWOC

as the Kenyon Farm liaison, echoes the sentiment but thinks there's only so much Twitter can do. "The political left has a strong foothold on Twitter, so in that way K-SWOC has been able to connect to a more national network of left-wing people," he said. "People who follow me on Twitter and who have no idea who I am ... like my tweets about K-SWOC. So that's cool. But I don't think it's the end-all."

Nathan Geesing '21 believes Twitter is less anti-capitalist than people tend to characterize it. "It's not democratic at all," he said. "It just replaces the real-world hierarchies with virtual ones. It's the same capitalist networks that have always existed," he said. "I also don't think it's a good space to have meaningful conversations with people. It turns very individualistic and about curating your brand and selling it to others."

According to Geesing, a wide range of different bubbles permeate the Kenyon Twittersphere. "There are all these different types on Twitter now," he said. "There are the poetry-Kenyon Review-professional types, and then there's also the political science guys and then there's people who are just on there, like myself, to make silly little jokes." In other words, the virtual space has come to mimic the social ecosystem of Kenyon.

Turner agreed with Geesing's sentiment. "It's pretty incredible," she said. "We've completely recreated, online, the experience of walking into the cafeteria and seeing the different kinds of social groups in Peirce."

Except that, now, you can actually read what they're thinking.



ALEX GILKEY

## Smith and Berklich face off in Council election to remember

**SOPHIE KRICHEVSKY**  
FEATURES EDITOR

With the end of the 2020-21 academic year in sight, the student body prepares for what is likely the most exciting Student Council presidential election in recent memory: a faceoff between incumbent Student Council President Bradley Berklich '22 and Diversity and Social Justice Committee Chairperson Micah Smith '22.

Given that the Student Council presidential election has been an uncontested race for the last two years, this year's vote is turning heads. Berklich would be the second Student Council president in the last five years to hold the position for multiple terms; Smith would be the first openly transgender person in College history to hold the position.

Many are intrigued by the candidates' widely differing leadership philosophies when it comes to the position, which is primarily responsible for presiding over Council meetings and enforcing the Council's bylaws.

As the incumbent president, Berklich's somewhat laissez-faire approach to the position has not changed much in the past

year. "I'm still a very firm believer in that whoever's running this open forum — in order to make it as inclusive as possible — should not push their own agenda," he said. Rather, he explained, he aims to help his fellow Council officers achieve their goals.

In this spirit, Berklich's campaign strategy has been to emphasize the work the Council has done collectively under his leadership. In his email to the student body, he specifically cited the Council's extension of the Pass/D/Fail deadline and start of a Business and Finance Committee (BFC) bylaw review, the latter moving into the spotlight following the lack of appropriate funding for campus affinity groups in the past semester.

It was Smith, however, who, as chair of the Diversity and Social Justice Committee, pushed for a review of the BFC bylaws in August, following the College's announcement that it would begin new, anti-racist initiatives. Likewise, they have advocated for the addition of a non-voting affinity group seat on the Council, not unlike the Kenyon Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (KSAAC); Berklich also cited this as a goal of his.

In line with their previous efforts,

Smith's campaign centers on calls for structural changes to the Council — ones that they feel will not only make the Council more effective, but also more inclusive. Although some of their ideas, such as a return to keeping all Council meeting minutes for the year in a single document, focus on the minutiae of the Council's inner workings, others represent a larger overhaul. Perhaps the most significant of these is Smith's intention to make Student Council positions paid jobs.

"Making these positions paid in some way ... would definitely make it a bit more equitable, instead of just, 'Oh, here's some random kids who happen to have time,'" Smith said. "Because that immediately is less representative of the student body."

Although both candidates emphasize their desire to lessen the gap between the student body and the Board of Trustees, each has different ideas about how to do so. Berklich, for one, has proposed adding a non-voting, student seat to the Board in hopes of giving students a direct channel to the Trustees.

"It's my idea to leverage that greater involvement into more earned trust [between students and the Board]," he explained.

Representation has been at the forefront of Smith's campaign, both in terms of his own identity politics and how he can effectively represent the student body. As he put it in his campaign email, "I am a KEEP Scholar and a first-generation and low-income student, a student worker as current co-manager of Unity House, an anthropology major, a Black student, a queer student, a transgender student, a poet, a person who continues to struggle with the Kenyon printer system, and more." He added, "I know that some of these may seem like they don't belong in an email that's supposed to get you to vote for me, but all of these positions I hold inform my perspective on Kenyon, and therefore my perspective on Student Council."

As Kenyon students head to the virtual polls this week, they will also cast their votes for a number of other Student Council races, including those for vice presidents of business and finance, student life and academic affairs, the senior, junior and sophomore class presidents, and several committee chairs. Voting closes Sunday, April 11 at 11:59 p.m. Students can access this form in a April 5 email sent out by the Student Life Committee.

# Debate surrounding team name as old as moniker itself

Theresa Carr  
Staff Writer

If you engage in a debate about Kenyon’s mascot — the Lords and Ladies — you’re bound to hear one word: tradition. As Campus Senate evaluates whether the name is the best representation of Kenyon athletes and the broader student body, what comes next will be informed by the history of that tradition.

The College had little use for a mascot or rallying nicknames in its first decades. Founded as a seminary, athletics were not the priority of Philander Chase, nor were there many potential competitors in Ohio in 1824. As Kenyon began to compete in inter-collegiate athletics, *Collegian* records show a preponderance of names. “Mauve,” “Mauve and White,” “the Mauve” and other variants on Kenyon’s original pale purple color were early monikers, replaced by “Kenyon Purple” as the coloration shifted. Often, teams were simply called “the Kenyon team.”

None of these monikers comprise a mascot in the contemporary sense of a consistent rallying symbol. Rather, the labels were viewed as nicknames to differentiate the Kenyon team from their opponents, said Keeper of Kenyoniana Thomas Stamp ’73 in a Feb. 18 Campus Senate meeting.

The first written use of the nickname “Lords” appears in a 1935 *Collegian* article, according to Stamp and the Kenyon Athletics Page. The name stuck and became consistently used in subsequent issues. The moniker was in reference to Kenyon’s aristocratic financiers, including Lord Kenyon, whose successors maintained close relationships with the College into the 20th century.

With the formation of the Coordinate

College in 1969, Kenyon’s first female students arrived at Kenyon with their own athletic ambitions, and with it came the need for a new team name. The first recorded use of the phrase “Lords and Ladies” in the *Collegian* was not a reference to athletics, however, but in an advertisement by First Knox National Bank released one week into co-education. The term “Ladies” was not adopted into regular use until several years after the ad appeared.

Women’s athletics began slowly at Kenyon, hindered by the College’s neglect to designate coaches for athletically inclined female students, according to Stamp. As women formed teams, often coaching themselves, some proposed names included the “Hannahs,” to honor benefactor Hannah More, according to Stamp, and the “Lordettes,” which was used regularly in 1971. The first reference to female athletes as “Ladies” in the *Collegian* was in their coverage of a 1973 field hockey game. Newly minted, *Collegian* articles reported on the successes and failures of Ladies teams along with the Lords.

Before long, the “Lords and Ladies” nickname became a tradition fiercely defended by some Kenyon alumni. Periodic critiques of the nicknames by athletes and non-athletes alike have been met with impassioned counterarguments in the pages of this paper.

Starting in the mid-90s, critics assert that the name “Ladies” is diminutive, does not represent the character of female athletes, does not evoke success in competitions or is Anglocentric. More recent critics have highlighted that the names do not adequately include students who do not identify as strictly male or female and have classist connotations.

Defenders of the moniker have their own



“Lords and Ladies” first appeared in a 1969 *Collegian* advertisement. | GREENSLADE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

laundry list of arguments. Many assert that the complaint is unnecessary and too critical, claiming that Kenyon’s campus culture would lose more by breaking with tradition than it would gain with a new mascot. Some, including the former Charles P. McIlvaine Professor of English Perry Lentz ’64 P’88, assert that the nickname is an appropriate demonstration of gratitude to Kenyon’s fi-

nanciers, without whom Kenyon would not exist. Others deny that gender-neutral language is important as long as athletes must choose between competing with men or women.

Regardless of the current discussion’s outcome, Kenyon students can know they’re upholding tradition in at least one way — by renewing the debate.

# CLASS CLASH

Compiled by Emily Yourman '24

	Answer	Carter Vivio '21	Stefano Frank de Maria '22	Molly McLaughlin '23	Esme Laster '24
What land animal can open its mouth the widest?	Hippopotamus	Anaconda	Hippopotamus	Leopard	Alligator
What color is an unripe eggplant?	White	Yellow	Green	White	Yellow
What is Harry Potter's patronus?	Stag (male deer)	Deer	I don't know	Horse	Expelliarmus
What country produces the most players to MLB other than the U.S.?	The Dominican Republic	The Dominican Republic	The Dominican Republic	Japan	The Dominican Republic
Weekly Scores		2	2	1	1



# A look into the final projects of Intermediate Film Directing

For the Intermediate Film Directing (FILM 361) course taught by Thomas S. Turgeon Professor of Drama Jonathan Tazewell, students were assigned a final project perfectly suited for the class — to direct a movie. Collegian Arts Editors Grace Wilkins '22 and Fredrike Giron-Giessen '23 write about two of these films. Classmates and filmmakers Liv Kane '22 and Abby Navin '23 made their respective films in accordance with Kenyon's COVID-19 guidelines, and wrapped up shooting in the last month. Navin and Kane expect their films and those of their classmates to be posted online by the end of the semester.



Behind the scenes of "Terrarium" | COURTESY OF LIV KANE

**FREDRIKE GIRON-GIESSEN**  
ARTS EDITOR

As an English and film double major, Liv Kane '22 is accustomed to crafting a strong narrative. However, for this project, Kane took a unique approach and made a dance film entitled "Terrarium."

When the pandemic began, film productions came to a startling halt, sparking concern over when the industry might return. On more low-budget sets, many, including Kane, have found creative ways to accommodate for COVID-19 restrictions like mask mandates. Instead of actors with speaking parts, Kane cast dancers — Claire Goldberger '23 and Jennie Berlin '23 — who gracefully donned paper masks with nose and mouth framings.

The plot follows Goldberger and Berlin, one acting as a figment of the other's imagination. Kane collaborated with a friend, Megan Hasenfratz '22, to craft the dance which would be featured in the film.

The film is set to a five-minute-long song composed by Dani Martinez '22, another friend of Kane's. The dance was rehearsed for weeks before filming, allowing for a very quick shoot which gave Kane ample time to edit. Kane anticipated it would take three days to shoot, but they managed to swiftly wrap up production af-

ter just two.

"I think Kenyon is so narratively driven," said Kane. "in a lot of ways, the [film] department puts heavy emphasis on narrative over visual ... I wanted to try something that was more visual, less narratively driven, and the dance film seemed like a good place to start."

Kane is no stranger to the world of directing, as this is the fourth film she's directed during her time at Kenyon. In order to enhance the experience, Kane aimed to create her desired working environment, one composed solely of women. For Kane this meant women "in more cinematography roles, in editing roles, in producing roles and also all of the dancers as well."

The class also offered Kane the opportunity to work with underclass students who she hadn't been previously introduced to. Shea Humphries '23 served as the cinematographer, and Abby Navin '23 was the production manager. Together, Kane, Humphries and Navin developed the vision for "Terrarium."

Kane's careful selection of the crew and her partnership with the dancers and choreographers fostered an ideal production site filled with fruitful creativity and collaboration. "Everyone who worked on the set was so wonderful, and it was a great team to work with," she said. "The dancers were super talented, and Megan was wonderful."



Navin directs actors for "Lucky Day." | COURTESY OF ABBY NAVIN

**GRACE WILKINS**  
ARTS EDITOR

As the semester draws on and community members are faced with quiet period restrictions, on-campus creators like filmmaker Abby Navin '23 are responding creatively to the challenging circumstances. Navin, a film and environmental studies double major, is in the process of producing a short film titled "Lucky Day." The film, deemed a drama by Navin because of its gradually darker plot progression, focuses on a character who discovers a penny that can transport him into his old memories.

Inspiration for the basis of the film, Navin admits, originated from late-night, pun-based rumination. "It's going to sound really silly," she said in an email to the *Collegian*, "but my idea for the film actually came out of a 3am lying-awake-in-bed thought. I was thinking about petty theft when I immediately thought of a pun... penny theft! And thus the film was born."

Navin credits her cast, composed of Will Sayegh '22, Maddie Vonk '23 and Caleb Stern '23, with bringing the project together, emphasizing the excitement she felt at their collective performance. "It is so much fun to see the characters you

wrote come to life by the actors," she said. She also noted the significance of the assistance she received from her production crew, including Jack Roman '23 as cinematographer, Shea Humphries '23 as production manager and Liv Kane '22 as sound recordist.

Filming earlier in the semester, when there were fewer COVID-19 cases on campus, allowed for Navin's actors to play their roles unmasked, outdoors. However, she shared, "With cases rising our guidelines have become much stricter. I believe most films that have yet to shoot have had to rewrite their scripts to include masks."

Navin is grateful for the opportunity the filming process has given her to branch out during an otherwise socially distant time. She also praises the growth that teamwork has inspired in her as a filmmaker, saying, "I think the best part of this experience has been working with new people. A film set is so collaborative and inclusive that I grow in my abilities each time I'm on one."

Though the creation of "Lucky Day" was motivated by her film class, Navin has been an active independent filmmaker since age 10, and doesn't anticipate an end to her projects anytime soon. "I can't really imagine not making films, even if it's not my actual job," she said. "The process brings me too much joy."



# MIKE brings beats and animated performance to the Horn

JACKSON WALD  
MANAGING EDITOR

On April 2, MIKE, a 22-year-old rapper based out of New York City, performed for the Horn Gallery’s virtual Horn @ Home concert series.

He rose to relevance in 2017, with the release of his first full-length album, *May God Bless Your Hustle*. Since then, he has been prolific, having released four full-length albums since 2018. He is a frequent collaborator with popular rapper Earl Sweatshirt, and is one of the lead members of the underground rap collective [sLUms].

MIKE is unlike most rappers you might hear on the radio. Rapping over chopped, luscious soul samples, he delivers his lyrics at such a fast and methodical pace that it renders his speech almost indecipherable.

“We really enjoy MIKE’s body of work and saw the work he had been doing with live-streaming over quarantine and thought he would be a great fit for the site,” Horn Gallery Co-manager Francis Ohe ’23, who booked MIKE, wrote in a message to the *Collegian*. “We were super excited to have MIKE come aboard for Horn at Home.”

During the performance, MIKE performed a smattering of songs from his discography — many from his recent albums *Tears of Joy* and *weight of the world*, as well as some unreleased tracks that can only be heard by watching reruns of hours-long



MIKE performing at The Glove in Brooklyn, NY in August of 2019. | JACKSON WALD

livestreams on his YouTube channel.

The setting of the concert was intimate; throughout the show, MIKE sauntered around a small, sparse living room with a jovial energy, often swaying back and forth, his delivery animated and spry. His producer sat behind him on a tan couch, controlling the beats and volume, his head bobbing along to the chords.

However, the 37-minute performance was a sort of visual contradiction. While MIKE appeared energized and carefree, the lyrics in his music he performed are

anything but upbeat. Much of the music in MIKE’s discography centers on his own personal grief, most notably his frequent battles with depression and the death of his mother in 2019.

Such is evident in the song, “no, no,” which MIKE performed near the end of his set. In this song, his grief is on full display. The lyric, “Gettin’ faded in the madness just to cure the pain,” addresses the lengths in which he goes to minimize his depression. Later in the song, MIKE muses about the death of his mother by rapping, “Took

my lady to a casket off the pearly gates.”

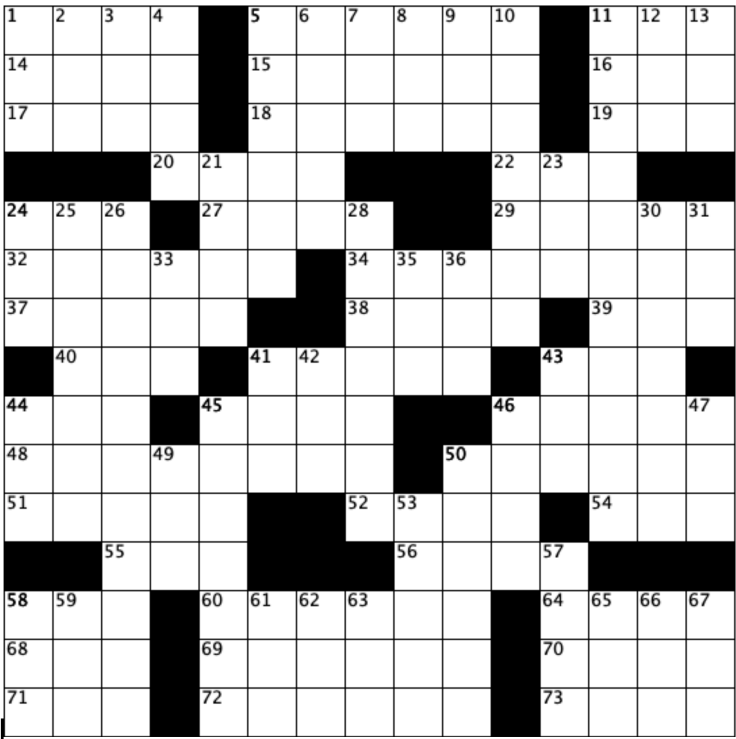
Other songs in the set — such as “God’s With Me,” “Weight of the Word” and “Numbered Dayz” — were equally somber and moving. MIKE’s Horn @ Home concert was an intimate and captivating performance from a rapper who is on the precipice of stardom. As a concert-goer, even in a virtual format, there’s almost nothing more you can ask for.

MIKE’s concert can be accessed on [hornathome.com](https://hornathome.com).

## CROSSWORD

REILLY WIELAND  
CROSSWORD EDITOR

ETHAN BONNELL  
CONTRIBUTOR



### Across

- The 13 of PG-13 and 17 of NC-17
- Brainy
- Sacred creature in ancient Egypt
- Do an usher’s job
- Refreshing root vegetable
- Blue, e.g. ... or a rhyme for “blue”
- Zeus’ vengeful wife
- Undergo natural selection
- Politician with a like button?
- Hill by a loch
- Bibliographical suffix
- Controversial sedative, in brief
- Smoking hot Italian?
- Sunday’s delicious promise, in Gambier
- Like pierogies and Pope John Paul II
- Cleaner fuel that draws well?
- 5-Across synonym
- Uber offering
- Dip powder nails, for short
- Catholicism’s defender against Luther
- Often paired with fast
- Baby food?
- DIY project in Genesis
- Way to a man’s heart?
- Biologist Stephen Jay \_\_\_\_
- 26 issues per year
- Congenital
- Tums’ targets
- NPR’s \_\_\_\_ Liasson
- Takes too much, gravely
- Terulingua two
- Vodka maker with eponymous brand
- Mind’s I?
- Decrees
- Jeff Bezos, Marvin Gaye’s voice or chocolate cake?
- Carpaccio or crudités
- Flower of \_\_\_\_, almost
- Needing some kneading?
- Animal associated with Palm Sunday
- Zeno and Epictetus
- Dark gemstone mentioned in the Bible

### Down

- The letter Æ
- “\_\_\_\_ whiz!”
- A grin stretches here
- A crack or attack
- A runner often needs to catch this
- It “perched upon a bust of Pallas”
- Veiled oath?
- Poet/musician \_\_\_\_ Scott-Heron
- 28 down, affecting 5% of the world’s population
- Royal Shakespeare Company’s work
- An artist’s use of dark and light
- Cousin of a puffin
- Capital of Texas?
- One “R” in R&R
- Little Bay de \_\_\_\_
- Conversation interrupter in a car, maybe
- Greek poetic style
- Dark females with hourglass figures
- It stands for something
- Snarled
- Lines around Chicago
- Bug or bother
- Half of a towel set
- Gator’s tail?
- Albanian coin
- “Texas tea”
- Burner in Britain
- Terza rima rhyme
- Bowls or boats
- Summer swarmer
- Cavity fillers or sober rides home
- Old Tokyo
- Van Gogh masterwork
- Top story
- “ish”
- 1970s measure that fell three states short of passing, in brief
- It’s lit
- E in Morse code
- U.N. worker protection agcy.
- XV x X + I
- It’s never free of charge
- Have a bawl
- Bit of spelling?

Did you finish this crossword? Email a photo of your completed crossword to [kenyoncollegian@gmail.com](mailto:kenyoncollegian@gmail.com)

You can also complete this crossword online at [kenyoncollegian.com/section/arts](https://kenyoncollegian.com/section/arts).



## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Kenyon must reconsider the changes to the CA program

On March 21, the Office of Residential Life (ResLife) announced sweeping changes to Kenyon's Community Advisor (CA) program for the upcoming academic year. These changes include a reapplication process and replacing CAs in apartment-style housing with two graduate students from Kent State University. We are worried about what these developments mean for our campus.

The first change has been somewhat overshadowed by the second, but we believe both are important to discuss. Before this announcement, CAs were simply required to fill out a form indicating whether they would like to maintain their position the following year. Now, CAs must formally reapply for their jobs by delivering a 5–10 minute-long presentation in front of two ResLife staff members.

The ResLife staff claims that the presentation is simply an "interactive version" of the application form and is not intended to add pressure; CAs beg to differ. It is hard to see the rationale behind this change in policy, as the process itself will likely end up being more burdensome than fulfilling. In many ways, it is a thinly veiled form of gatekeeping intended to benefit those who have the resources to put time and effort into reapplying to a job they have already secured.

The second change — which has gained widespread attention, especially from alumni — involves CAs in apartment-style housing being replaced by two graduate students from Kent State. While this will restore the number of CA jobs to pre-pandemic levels, it is a missed opportunity to create more jobs for student workers (CAs are notably the highest-paying jobs on campus). If the College had wanted to increase the presence of CAs in first-year dorms, it could have easily hired additional students. Instead, it decided to outsource arguably the most important job on campus without consulting students.

The College claims this hiring will "provide the type of administrative support that students in apartments typically require." However, we'd argue that upperclass students in apartments need a CA who lives near them, can offer peer support and creates a community bond just as much as they need "administrative support."

While we feel for these Kent State students, who are being put in an awkward and unwinnable situation, it feels unlikely that they will be able to seamlessly integrate into the Kenyon community and serve the apartments better than the CAs who were there before them. For a school that claims to value community above all else, it is ironic that Kenyon was so quick to replace community members with outsiders.

The student-work system at Kenyon is broken, and it has been for some time. The presence of the Kenyon Student Working Organizing Committee (K-SWOC), intended to support student workers — such as CAs — through a union, is proof of that. Yet the administration has repeatedly squashed their efforts to unionize, so that when a situation such as this occurs, where student workers are thrown under the bus, they have only each other to turn to.

The CAs are a pillar of the Kenyon community. They foster a welcoming and warm environment in our living spaces, and tend to the safety of all students across campus. We hope the College will do the right thing, and reconsider these harmful changes.

*The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Mae Hunt '21 and Evey Weisblat '21, managing editor Jackson Wald '22 and executive director Elizabeth Stanley '21. You can contact them at [hunt1@kenyon.edu](mailto:hunt1@kenyon.edu), [weisblat1@kenyon.edu](mailto:weisblat1@kenyon.edu), [wald1@kenyon.edu](mailto:wald1@kenyon.edu) and [stanley2@kenyon.edu](mailto:stanley2@kenyon.edu), respectively.*

## WEEKLY COLUMN

# Friendships don't always last forever. And that's okay.

AALIYAH C. DANIELS  
COLUMNIST

I have heard my entire life that people are in your life for a "reason, a season or a lifetime." However, I've noticed that, in this generation, no one seems to care about the reason or the season, but we all cling to the idea of things lasting for a lifetime: phrases like "best friends forever" and "I'll love you forever," pop culture's obsession with immortal beings like vampires and our constant need to post everything for posterity. But the fact remains that nothing is forever — not friendships, not relationships, not even we are forever.

So why do we want everything to be forever? Why are we so opposed to the idea of oblivion, or simply living in the moment? What is so wrong about "YOLO"-ing our way through life? I would argue that we are so afraid of lack of control in life, that we fight for everything to be "forever." Even I have become a victim of trying to make every friendship I have last forever, even if it can't or shouldn't. Sometimes it's no one's fault if a friend loses dedication or interest, and other times it turns out that your friendship was surface-level to begin with. I used to think that if friendships didn't last my entire life, they weren't valuable or were a waste of time, but there is a reason you meet certain people, even if those people later become distant memories.

Even if I was warned that these friendships wouldn't last forever, I never believed it. As I was entering high school, the seniors told the freshmen that the friends we started high school with would not be the friends we ended with. I couldn't believe them. I had just become friends with the coolest girl I'd ever met: She had a voice exactly like Amy Winehouse and wore combat boots in the summer. We were instantaneously BFFs. We were really close the first semester of freshman year, but, by the time I graduated, I hadn't talked to her in nearly a year and a half. There was no big fight, no betrayal, no cinematic montage of importance. That was the first friendship I ever had that disappeared unnoticed. But I still think about her all the time because we were supposed to be forever. Even now, we post pictures of each other on our birthdays, like our friendship holds some permanence.

Losing friends is a part of life and sometimes it is desperately needed. When you lose a friend, even a best friend, you learn more about your boundaries, your reflective skills and who you want to be. But losing friends hurts, and losing best friends feels like you are losing a part of yourself. When things don't last forever it can feel like everything is falling apart.

So trust me: I get wanting things to last forever, especially when it comes to relationships (romantic and platonic). I mean, we are the first-ever "immortal generation." We will live on the internet forever young and by the time our butts sag, there will probably be technology built for us to be alive forever, just like a *Black Mirror* episode. But do we really want to live forever? Do we want every best friend to be "forever"? Every vampire I have ever adored, from Edward Cullen to Stefan Salvatore, says that being alive forever is tiring and that immortality is not what it's cracked up to be.

So let's get comfortable with one day being a distant memory. With having an array of best friends, each perfect for the version of ourselves we are for that season. One of the greatest things about life is that we get to have a character arc — we get to grow and change and evolve, but that doesn't happen if we think we are permanent. The best thing about not having a "forever" is that every moment matters. Every failed relationship is a participation trophy and every relationship that lasts until the end is golden. But most importantly, not having forever means that time is limited. Whether someone is in your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime, they can still bring value, meaning and something perfectly impermanent.

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The opinions page is a space for members of the community to discuss issues relevant to the campus and the world at large. The opinions expressed on this page belong only to the writers. Columns and letters to the editors do not reflect the opinions of the *Collegian* staff. All members of the community are welcome to express opinions through a letter to the editor.

The *Kenyon Collegian* reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The *Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or fewer. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. The *Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.





ALEX GILKEY

## Stop calling people out and start calling people in. We need constructive dialogue when talking about COVID.

ELIJAH MANNING  
CONTRIBUTOR

Saying it's safe to go to Chilitos is like saying it's safe for the Trojans to let in that wooden horse. Any health expert will tell you that it's objectively a bad decision, and there's little room for debate. Yet, Chilitos has also exposed another problem that nobody is talking about: the disconnect in Kenyon's community between those who just want to live a little, and those who just want to live.

"Dear Kenyon Students," began an all-student email sent out by a Kenyon student, "you might not care about getting sick and causing an outbreak, but

the rest of us sure do ... No one else wants to deal with your bs." At the time, I assumed the antagonistic way the message was conveyed was more of an exception than the norm. But after a little investigation, I'm not so sure.

I asked some of my peers what they thought of the people who frequented Chilitos. Though a few described them as normal students, most said that those who went to Chilitos were irresponsible, reckless or even animals. However, when I asked them if they'd ever had a conversation with anyone about why they went to the restaurant, the answer was almost always a resounding "no." Herein lies the problem.

Last weekend, I went to Chilitos for the first and last time this semester.

Inside, I was greeted with lively conversation and smiling faces. For the first time in a while, things felt normal.

"You went to Chilitos!" my friend said later over the phone. "Dude, that's so sus." His tone suggested there was no room for discussion about the fact that I had gone. Instead, there was a period of awkward silence before he hung up. In hindsight, I realize that I deserved some level of judgement, and I probably shouldn't have gone.

If I'd had a chance on the phone, I would have told my friend that I felt that it was safe to go to Chilitos because there were zero COVID-19 cases on campus at the time. Perhaps I could have heard why he was concerned, and we would've understood each other. This conversation, if

anything, made me want to drag my mattress into the restaurant and live there forever.

On the other hand, another friend told me, "I know it's fun, but when you go to Chilitos it makes me feel unsafe, and I would feel a lot more relaxed if you wouldn't go anymore. I do really want to hang out with you." It was conversations like these that reminded me that my actions have a ripple effect in the larger community that is Kenyon, convincing me not to go back.

COVID-19 is an infectious disease. My concern is not for myself, but for those around me who might be more at risk. The inconvenient truth is that everyone is connected. But it's impossible to feel that connection when there is such a divide in our com-

munity. Everyone wants to criticize, but nobody is willing to listen.

The campus is now in another lockdown. The easiest thing to do would be to get angry and point fingers. Yet in the era of calling people out, what is necessary is to call people in. If we really want our peers to change their actions, we have to be willing to start a conversation. On the flip side, everyone needs to be open to feedback and assess whether their actions may be causing harm. If we truly want our community to be healthy, we must first facilitate honest communication.

*Elijah Manning '23 is an English Major from Chestnut Ridge, N.Y. He can be reached at [manning3@kenyon.edu](mailto:manning3@kenyon.edu).*



# Lords adjust to difficult circumstances as practices begin

ADAM SAMET  
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

After more than a year away from competition, the Lords football team has begun its spring training.

With upperclass students coming back from a long hiatus and COVID-19-related restrictions in place, coaches and players have a lot on their minds. As a contact sport, football presents unique challenges when it comes to safely managing the virus. Practices normally filled with blocking, tackling and helmets now consist of minimal contact, social distancing and mandatory mask wearing.

Head Coach James Rosenbury believes these hurdles have actually helped him and his staff become better mentors. “Football coaches, like most people, are creatures of habit and comfort so we do the things that we know and are comfortable [with],” Rosenbury wrote in an email. “The pandemic has forced us outside of our comfort zone and allowed us all to grow in a lot of different ways.”

Unable to run some of the drills that football teams typically rely on, squads are digging deeper into the “why” of how they run practices. Coaches are redesigning exercises to keep their value, while minimizing contact in the process — like tagging off opponents instead of wrapping up.

In addition to these precautions, the scheduling of spring training looks different this year. During a typical spring, collegiate football teams are allowed 16 padless practices over a five-week period. To make up for lost practice time and help avoid injuries when teams return to intercollegiate play, the NCAA has updated its spring training protocols: Teams can now practice a total of 24 times over six weeks — this time with pads. The Lords hope to end this extended practice time safely so that they can play an inter-squad scrimmage down the line.

In some ways, however, the long gap in play has presented the biggest hurdle. After a 26-game losing streak, the Lords went 3-7 in the 2019 season. With a largely new coaching staff and victories finally appearing on its record, the football team was building some momentum. When the team couldn’t practice last spring, this success was in danger of fizzling out.



COURTESY OF KENYON ATHLETICS



COLLEGIAN ARCHIVES



Head Coach James Rosenbury prepares for his second regular season. | COURTESY OF ZOE CASDIN

“The inability to have a full team on campus has been one of our biggest obstacles,” said Rosenbury. “Consistently staying in touch via Zoom and Google Meet with one another in order to maintain the chemistry and culture that we started to build in

2019 has been essential.”

To help reacclimate players to the rigors of the sport and maintain the team’s new culture, upperclass students are taking particularly active roles. Unlike some Kenyon sports teams, most seniors plan to graduate this semes-

ter after losing out on their coveted final season. Not wanting to simply walk away from the program, a number of seniors have taken assistant coaching positions for this spring. “This has been incredibly helpful for our staff,” Rosenbury said. “It

has been a way for them to continue being a part of Kenyon Football while also giving back.”

*The Lords plan to resume NCAA competition this fall. For scheduling updates, visit [athletics.kenyon.edu/sports/](https://athletics.kenyon.edu/sports/)*



# Baylor upsets undefeated Zags to win first ever national title

**TRIPPER CAPPS**  
STAFF WRITER

The 2021 NCAA men's basketball tournament far exceeded the expectations of many viewers. From the first round to the championship game, the tournament had no shortage of upsets and Cinderella stories. The tournament was just the second time in history that a First Four team made it to the Final Four, with the 11th seed University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Bruins going on an incredible run. The Bruins knocked off 11th seed Michigan State University, 14th seed Abilene Christian University, second seed University of Alabama and the first seed University of Michigan, before facing off in a thrilling Final Four matchup against undefeated Gonzaga University. In arguably the best game of the tournament, Gonzaga's freshman phenom Jalen Suggs made a game-winning three to send the Zags to the championship game against the powerhouse Baylor University.

The championship game between Gonzaga and Baylor featured two No. 1 seeds and squads that were respectively ranked first and second nationally in the polls for most of the year. It is not often that the two best teams in college basketball meet in the title game. Gonzaga, sitting at 31-0, was the clear favorite entering the contest. Nev-

ertheless, with stifling defense and clutch shot-making, Baylor completely dominated on all fronts, upsetting Gonzaga 86-70 and winning the program's first-ever national championship. Bears' star guard Jared Butler was named the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament. He finished with 22 points and seven assists, the first player since Syracuse University's Carmelo Anthony in 2003 to go 20 and seven in a title game.

Baylor's title was the culmination of a decades-long overhaul of the program, after coach Scott Drew was hired in 2003 following immense controversy; the program received one of the harshest penalties ever handed out by the NCAA after the murder of Patrick Dennehy by his teammate Carlton Dotson and the subsequent cover-up by the coach and other team officials. Drew has completely changed the landscape of Baylor basketball. "I remember being 30-point or 40-point underdogs," Drew said. "Credit those guys who won three games that year. There's a lot of sweat and sacrifice that led up to this. This is their championship as much as ours. That's why this is a 'we' thing."

Another great storyline in this year's tournament was that of Oral Roberts University. As the 15th seed, the Golden Eagles knocked off both second seed Ohio State University and seventh seed University of Florida,

before eventually falling to third seed University of Arkansas in the Sweet Sixteen. Oral Roberts sophomores Max Abmas and Kevin Obanor were perhaps the most exciting scoring duo during the tournament, who combined to an average of almost 55 points a game. Abmas was the nation's leading scorer during the regular season, and he displayed that scoring talent in the tournament, putting up 29 points against Ohio State, 26 against Florida and 25 against Arkansas.

Another March Madness highlight was the performance of Pac-12 teams in the tournament. The conference combined for a record of 13-5, which tied for the 22nd-best winning percentage in tournament history. Most notably, double-digit seeds Oregon State University and UCLA reached the Elite 8 and Final Four respectively. Perhaps the best overall player performance in the tournament came from UCLA's Johnny Juzang, who scored 137 points during his team's run, the most in the tournament. The University of Kentucky transfer had a big rebound season for the Bruins, averaging 16 points per game during the regular season and 23 points per game in the tournament.

After COVID-19 had major impacts on this past season, the NCAA will hope to return to some semblance of normalcy next season, with vaccinations rapidly being distributed across



Jared Butler won the Most Outstanding Player in this year's tournament. | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

the country. Early projections indicate that Gonzaga is expected to make a return to the title game. Despite seeing Suggs and sharpshooter Corey Kispert depart, the Zags will likely add the

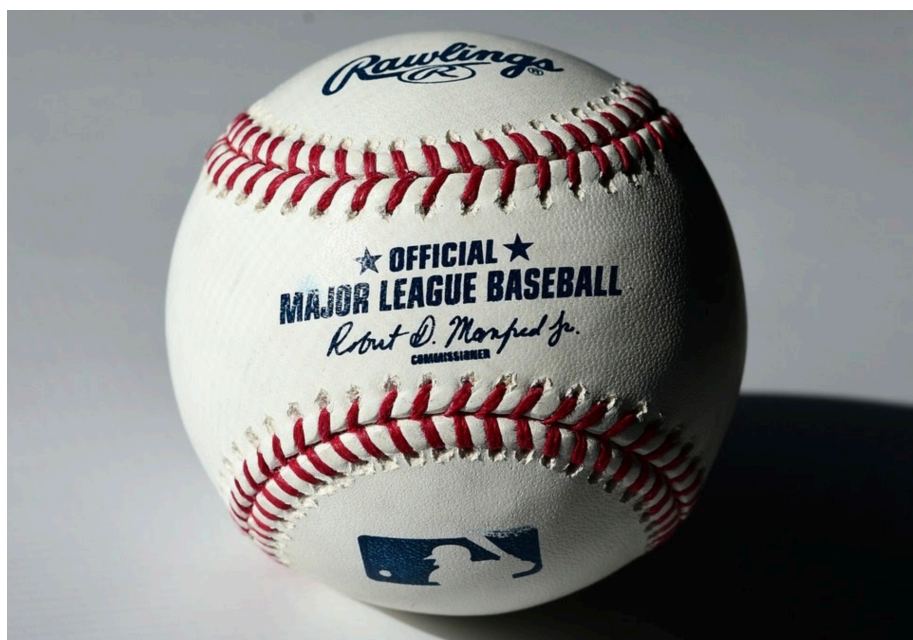
nation's top-ranked player in Chet Holmgren and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill transfer Walker Kessler to pair with a potential returning All-American in Drew Timme.

# MLB moves All-Star Game from Atlanta due to voting law

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On Tuesday, MLB commissioner Rob Manfred finalized a decision to move the 2021 All-Star Game from Atlanta's Truist Park to Coors Field in Denver. The decision came after Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp signed a controversial bill that added heavy restrictions on voting and elections, such as a ban on giving food and water to voters in line. Backlash from politicians and corporations alike has been widespread, with many citing the new laws as an example of voter suppression targeting low-income Georgia residents of color in already underserved areas.

The MLB has already joined large Georgia-based entities such as Coca-Cola and Home Depot in voicing opposition to the new law, but the league has now taken tangible action to demonstrate their disapproval. Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms expressed support for the MLB's move on Twitter, saying that the relocation of the All-Star Game "is likely the first of many dominoes to fall until the unnecessary barriers put in place to restrict access to the ballot box are removed."



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Local Atlanta businesses will certainly feel the loss of the All-Star Game, as the 2019 MLB All-Star Game generated over \$60 million in revenue for the city of Cleveland. Though the MLB has affirmed its intent to honor commitments made to the Atlanta community, in practice, it seems as though the economic loss is inevitable, with Cobb Travel and Tourism reporting that the area could

stand to lose nearly \$100 million in revenue as a result of the relocation.

Kemp said of the move, "This attack on our state is the direct result of repeated lies from [President] Joe Biden and Stacey Abrams about a bill that expands access to the ballot box and ensures the integrity of our elections. I will not back down." The Atlanta Braves also released an official statement weighing in on the

MLB's decision, stating that the league's decision to relocate the All-Star Game had left them "deeply disappointed." The Braves organization pledged their continued commitment to supporting equal voting opportunities but felt that the relocation of the All-Star Game unnecessarily punished Atlanta businesses and workers.

Even before this controversy, the MLB has taken an active role in supporting voting rights issues. In September 2020, the MLB joined the Civic Alliance, a non-partisan collective of nearly 1,200 businesses, including notable corporations such as Amazon, Microsoft and Starbucks, committed to increasing voter turnout throughout the United States. The MLB has recently used the influence of many of their franchises in order to support increasing voter turnout nationwide. For example, they have established baseball parks as voting centers or ballot drop locations, and have used social media to boost the spread of information regarding county voter registration procedures. Though the relocation of the All-Star Game will come at the expense of a significant amount of revenue for Atlanta businesses, the MLB's message to Georgia is clear: voter suppression is unacceptable.